

## Porter-Gaud Quarantine Protocol

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The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) states that the full fourteen (14) day quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 case remains the most effective strategy for preventing additional transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have updated their guidance with two additional options to shorten quarantine to reduce burden on individuals and increase compliance.

Porter-Gaud School recognizes the burden that quarantine places on students, especially those who benefit most from in person instruction. Porter-Gaud also recognizes that shortening the quarantine period can increase the risk a student is on campus when potentially contagious and that this risk must be with a willingness to comply with recommendations of quarantine.

DHEC has allowed each individual school the choice to allow a shorter quarantine or stay with the 14-day period.

### **Porter-Gaud School has elected to change its length of quarantine.**

- **All individuals identified as close contacts exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 MUST quarantine for no less than 10 days.** Quarantine may end after Day 10 after last exposure to the case if **no symptoms** develop throughout the quarantine period **and** the individual has a negative PCR test at day 7 or later. The individual may return to campus on day 11 after the date of their last exposure. For Days 11 -14 the individual must complete their Ascend screening honestly each morning. If any symptoms develop the individual **MUST** stay home from campus. The school nurse or other appointed staff member will manually screen all individuals returning from quarantine for days 11-14. The school nurse has the discretion to not allow an individual on campus if they have any symptoms post-exposure.
  - Rationale: "With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk after completing 10 days of quarantine is estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%." By also requiring a negative PCR test at day 7 or later further decreases the risk of transmission.
- If an individual does not want to test for COVID-19 during their quarantine, they must complete the full 14 day quarantine.
- A negative COVID-19 test before day 7 without symptoms will not be accepted. The test must be performed 7 days after exposure if the individual is asymptomatic.
- All individuals who end quarantine after 10 days must strictly adhere to Porter-Gaud's Health and Safety requirements (wear a face covering, maintain physical distancing, hand hygiene) while on campus. If an individual is found not to follow these practices they will be required to finish their 14 day quarantine at home.
- At this time, Porter-Gaud School **will not** adopt the optional 7 day quarantine with a negative test. The risk is too great. We will continue to evaluate this developing preventative measure.

- Individuals must comply with quarantine recommendations as set forth by the school. This cannot be countered by a family physician to shorten this quarantine period.
- Household contact: If the student or staff member lives in the same household as a known case of COVID-19, they must quarantine for an additional ten days after the date their household member has been cleared from their isolation period unless the confirmed household member is able to completely isolate from all other family members for the duration of their isolation period.
- Those who have recovered from COVID-19: If a student or staff member is a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 by antigen or PCR (nose or throat swab or saliva test), they do not need to quarantine again after close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the first three (3) months after recovering but will for any close contact that happens after that three (3) month period.

\*\*\*Please note this protocol could change at any point depending on transmission activity within our PG community and the recommendations from DHEC & CDC.

Additional criteria to discontinue quarantine after Day 10 that must also be met per DHEC:

- No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued - **and** -
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through Day 14 – **and** -
- Persons are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly through Day 14 to all recommended strategies to mitigate spread (physical distancing, hand hygiene, and mask wearing). They should be advised that if they develop any symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider and should seek retesting.

#### **Resources:**

[DHEC Health Update- Options to Shorten Quarantine for COVID-19](#)

[CDC: When to Quarantine](#)